



For Immediate Release
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Contract Awarded for New Addition at EPA's Duluth Research Facility

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Duluth, Minn.....The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has awarded a \$2 million construction contract for the expansion of its research facilities in Duluth. The contract for the 13,000 square-foot addition has been awarded to J.R. Jensen & Son, Inc of Superior, WI. The architecture contracts for the building design were awarded to SFA Architects, Cincinnati, OH and Harley Ellis, South Field, MI. Construction is expected to begin in October and will be complete next fall. A groundbreaking ceremony, which will include a public open house, is being planned.

The facility is home to the Mid-Continent Ecology Division, part of the EPA's Office of Research and Development's National Health and Environmental Effects Research Laboratory. Built in 1967, the facility is one of the world's premier aquatic toxicology and freshwater ecology research laboratories. During the past 33 years, the laboratory's first-class capabilities have supported a diverse research program that provides the scientific basis for environmental protection programs used throughout the nation.

The addition will include needed office space; an expanded library, high-tech computer facilities -- including new space for geographic information systems (GIS) -- and a 200-seat multimedia conference center.

Steven Bradbury, Director of the Mid-Continent Ecology Division says "This new addition will greatly enhance our capabilities and will also provide an opportunity to support the scientific and environmental protection community in the Duluth-Superior area and Great Lakes region.

The conference facilities have been designed to provide a venue in the Twin Port communities of Duluth and Superior for international workshops and symposia addressing the ecological health of the Great Lakes Basin and the nation's freshwater ecosystems. Many of these workshops will be provided in partnership with universities, research centers and other organizations.

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